

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

31 May 1974

Joshua M. Leise
Co-Chairman, US Side of the
Joint Working Group on
Production of Substances
by Microbial Means

Dear Dr. Leise:

Enclosed is a set of materials which I hope will be of some use to the Microbiology Working Group in your efforts to develop an exchange of mutual benefit with the Soviets.

During our meeting in early May I said I would prepare a list of Soviet facilities apparently engaged in single cell protein production using gas and/or gas oil substrates. At the time I thought this would be a relatively easy task, but as you can see our knowledge of specific locations of SCP production plants is quite limited. While the Soviets indicate that such plants are in operation or about to become operational, we have had difficulty verifying these claims. I should point out that the Soviets do have numerous plants engaged in yeast production using other substrates. If you are interested in that information let us know.

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(for) CIA Letter head*

Microbiology

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Again, I stress the need for the US Working Group to visit Soviet production facilities, not only for single cell protein, but for any biosynthetic production

operations appropriately covered in the exchange. This is a prerequisite for understanding Soviet state-of-the-art. If some of the SCP plants are inaccessible, you may be able to visit the pilot plant which reportedly is associated with the Institute of Biochemistry and Physiology of Microorganisms in Pushchino.

I hope your June meeting with the Soviets is successful. In the meantime, I will continue to provide further materials to you.

Sincerely,

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